



Public Health Office,
32, South Street,
Bridport.

November, 1940.

TO THE MEMBERS OF BEAMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health of the District for 1939. It is abbreviated according to the instructions of the Ministry of Health. May I take this opportunity of thanking the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. C.C. Rundle, for his most valuable help, the other Council Officers for their co-operation and all Members of the Council for their courtesy.

I am,
Yours Obediently,

ADAM ARMIT,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health.	Adam Armit, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector.	C.C. Rundle, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
Clerk to the Medical Officer.	Miss S. Branigen.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area (in Acres)	58,693
Registrar-General's estimate of	
(a) resident population, mid-1939	7,624
(b) average population appropriate to the calculation	
of death rates.	7,778
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1939) according to	
rate books	2,459
Rateable Value	£30,572
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£133

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

	IM etc.		B.R.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
<u>Live Births</u>					
Total.	52	62	52	62	} Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1939 15.35
Legitimate.	49	59	49	59	
Illegitimate.	3	3	3	3	
<u>Still Births</u>					
Total.		M.		F.	} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births . . . 25.64
Legitimate.		1		2	
Illegitimate.		-		-	
<u>Deaths.</u>		58		52	} Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population . . 11.45
Total.		110			

Comparability Factor. 0.81

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):-

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)births.
No.29.Puerperal Sepsis... ..	Nil	Nil
No.30.Other puerperal causes. ...	Nil	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-		No. of Deaths...3
" " All Infants per 1,000 live births.....		26.31
" " Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.....		27.78
" " Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.....		Nil
	Total	M. F.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	20	7 13
" " Measles(all ages)	-	- -
" " Whooping Cough(all ages)... ..	-	- -
" " Diarrhoea(under 2 years of age)	-	- -
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales.....		15
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales.....		0.59
Death Rate for England and Wales.....		12.1
Infantile Death Rate for England and Wales.....		50

There were no causes of sickness or invalidity specially noteworthy during the year.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The new County Laboratory has been of very great service during the year, and I am grateful to the Bacteriologist and his Staff for their assistance to me. Ambulance facilities are adequate.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

No. of Parishes with piped water supplies.....12 wholly and 4 partly.
No. of Parishes without piped water supplies....10
No. of samples analysed.....108

The Beaminster supply is analysed every month.

Preliminary reports on schemes for the following villages were prepared by a firm of Water Engineers:- Netherbury, North and South Bowood, Salway Ash, Broadwindsor, Corscombe, Halstock, Mosterton and Thorncombe.

Sanitary Inspections of the Area.

No. of Informal Notices..... 99 No. complied with..... 81
No. of Statutory Notices..... 8 No. complied with..... 8
No. of Inspections.....842 (excluding houses, cowsheds and dairies, slaughter-houses, factories and workshops).

HOUSING.

No. of dwelling-houses inspected..321 No. of Inspections.....413
No. Inspected under Housing Consol
Regs.....190 No. of Inspections.....339
No. of dwelling-houses unfit for
human habitation 43 No. not reasonably fit....147
No. rendered fit after Informal
Action by L.A.....not known No. of Notices.....Nil
No. of demolition orders..... 11 No. demolished..... 1
No. of new houses erected..... 37 No. erected by L.A. 18
No. owned by L.A..... 82 Approximate no. of working
class houses in District.1600

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Cowsheds and Dairies.

No. of Persons on Register....	438	No. of Dairies on Register....	438
No. of Inspections.....	704	No. of Inspections of Milk Shops.....	1
No. of Notices served.....	285	No. complied with.....	209

Meat Supply.

Carcases Inspected after Slaughter.
Cattle 268, Calves 542, Sheep 837, Pigs 434.

Percentage of the number Inspected Infected with Tuberculosis.
Cattle 11.9, Pigs 9.4

Food and Drugs.

The County Council took 24 samples for analyses of various Foods and Drugs including 12 samples of milk. All these were satisfactory.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There were 20 cases of Infectious Diseases notified. Diphtheria 2, Erysipelas 5, Scarlet Fever 6, Pneumonia 3, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 3, Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis 1.

From the Schools were notified 7 cases of Ringworm, 8 of Impetigo, 84 of Influenza, 18 of German Measles, 17 of Chicken Pox, 2 of Mumps and 8 of Whooping Cough.

No artificial immunization was provided against Diphtheria, and no Measles serum was used. Existing facilities for the typing of pneumococci are present in the County Laboratory.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1939.

Disease.	Total cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	6	6	Nil
Diphtheria	2	1	Nil
Enteric Fever(including Paratyphoid)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Fever	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	3	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	5	Nil	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action was necessary under the Public Health(Prevention of Tuberculosis)Regulations, 1925, or Section 172 of the P.H.A., 1936.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1939.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 -	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 -	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	2	0	1	2	0	0	0

The Notification of Tuberculosis in the Area is very satisfactory. All patients who died from the Disease had been notified to the M.O.H. to be suffering from Tuberculosis.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

79 Inspections were made of Factories and Workshops and 14 Written Notices served to remedy defects. 9 of these were complied with.